of traditional knowledge & folklore, Public Health and access to medicines, clarification and improvement of disciplines relating to anti-dumping and subsidies and countervailing measures, special and differential treatment for developing countries and negotiations on market access for non-agricultural products aimed at elimination of non-tariff barriers and tariff peaks and tariff escalations. India strongly opposed the inclusion of non-trade social issues like labour within the ambit of WTO. The Declaration recognises that the International Labour Origanisation (ILO) is the appropriate forum to address the issue of core labour standards. The Ministerial Conference decided to initiate negotiations only on few items of agenda of Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) while the remaining items have been referred to the study process until the Fifth Ministerial Conference. On the Singapore issues relating to Investment, Competition Policy, Trade Facilitation and Transparency in Government Procurement, the Ministerial Conference decided to launch negotiations after the 5th Session of Ministerial Conference only on the basis of decisions to be taken at that session by "Explicit Consensus".

(c) and (d) The Doha Ministerial Conference has adopted Decisions on a number of Implementation Issues and Concerns of the developing countries. The decisions which confer significant benefits to India include longer time-frame of six months for compliance with new Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures, moratorium of two years on non-violation complaints under Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, investigating authorities to examine with special care for initiation of back-to-back anti-dumping investigation within 365 days, and members to offer cooperation and assistance including furnishing information about export value when the customs administration of an importing Member has reasonable grounds to doubt the truth or accuracy of the declared value. The outstanding implementation issues would be addressed as an integral part of the Work Programme of the WTO decided by the Doha Ministerial Conference.

Removal of ban on import of farm products from India

178. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open all the farm products except onion for imports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that farm products from India are not allowed in US and Canada;

(d) if so, the reason therefor; and

(e) whether Government have taken any action to get the ban removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) In accordance with the economic liberalization policy being followed since 1991 and also in accordance with our international commitments, all the quantitative restrictions on imports, earlier being maintained on account of balance of payment reasons have been removed. The items on which these QRs have been removed include farm products also. Import of onion is also free. However, import of all primary agricultural products is subject to a Sanitary, Phyto-Sanitary import permit, to be issued by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, as per conditions of Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 1989.

(c) to (e) There is no ban on import of farm products from India into Canada. However, import of farm produce is subject to quarantine and health regulations prescribed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Farm produce is allowed into the US. However, for a few agricultural items (*i.e.* mangoes) the high phyto-sanitary standards set by the US Food and Drug Administration may occasionally prove difficult to meet. APEDA has been working on specific projects about these problems.

Ban on import of Arecanuts

179. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the falling prices of arecanuts and related arecanut products, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the areca growing farmers of Karnataka are badly hit by the fall of price;

(c) whether it is a fact, that import of arecanut is one of the reason for fall of price; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban import of arecanut or impose heavy duty, if so, details thereof?